

PERRYSBURG JOURNAL.

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The Hancock Courier has a good article, advocating the construction of a railroad from Urbana to Detroit. The Courier says there is a charter for such a road, and that the corporators living in Hancock co. are determined to make an effort to have the road built. Success attend them.

Smith's New School Geography.

We have received from the publishers, D. Burgess & Co., New York, by the politeness of P. C. Holt, book-seller, Maumee City, a copy of Smith's Geography and Atlas, a new edition of which has lately been published. This work has been very much enlarged, embellished with new illustrations throughout, designed expressly for it, critically corrected and thoroughly revised, so as to conform to the census of the United States for 1850—to that of Great Britain and Ireland for March, 1851, and to the latest that could be obtained of other countries.

The acquisition of territory to the United States, the discovery of the mineral wealth of California and Australia, and the establishment of steam communication between remote parts of the earth, have greatly increased geographical knowledge.

The information thus obtained has been carefully collected and inserted in this edition. It has been not only necessary to correct the maps of former editions, but to add new maps of the states of California and Texas, of the territories of Oregon, Washington, Utah, New Mexico, Nebraska, and the countries of Mexico and Central America, which has been done from the latest and best authorities.

A large map of the Roman Empire is also added, to aid in the study of Ancient Geography, a compendium of which is contained in the latter part of the book.

We have looked over this Geography and Atlas with much interest, and take pleasure in saying that it is by far the most condensed, complete and thorough work that we have yet seen for teaching geography. Any pupil who can readily answer the "drill questions" for exercise and review, and becomes familiar with "Ancient Geography" as here taught, will have not only an uncommonly good knowledge of Geography, but also a fund of general information quite as rare as it is valuable.

Mr. Holt has the books for sale in Maumee City.

A cartridge manufactory at Ravenswood, on Long Island, near New York city, exploded a few days ago, instantly killing 16 persons, most of whom were children at work there. The bodies of the victims were blown into small fragments, and scattered about for a distance of 300 or 400 yards. The building was torn to atoms, and musket balls and portions of the wreck were thrown with great force in all directions. It was caused by the bursting of an oil lamp used amongst the powder—the result of carelessness entirely.

OHIO LEGISLATURE.—But little has been done as yet in either branch. In the senate, a few days ago, another assistant clerk was elected, being four for that body. In the house, on the 1st inst., the special committee to whom was referred the memorials of the clerk and the sergeant at arms for additional help, reported in favor of electing three additional assistant clerks, and two additional assistant sergeants at arms; also authorizing the sergeant at arms to employ some one to make fires, at not exceeding one dollar per day. The house will no doubt confirm the reports. This will make the executive force of the house, six clerks, four sergeants at arms, and one fireman—wages, \$21 per day.

The O. State Journal says that the late decision of the supreme court of Ohio, that so much of the tax law as allows persons in giving in their lists of moneys and credits to the assessor, to take out of them the amount of their indebtedness, is unconstitutional and of no effect, has put the democratic leaders to a complete *non plus*! The constitution declares that taxation shall be uniform—the tax law allows all persons except bankers to take from their monies and credits the amount they owe, and return the balance for taxation; but this privilege is denied to banks and bankers, and it was to test the legality of the law that the question was brought before the court. But instead of reducing the bank basis of taxation to an equality with that of the people, this decision of the court raises the basis of taxation of the people up to an equality with that of the banks. The people must now be taxed just as the banks are taxed—that is, on all that is owing to them, without reference to what they owe—and that is a horse of another color! The banks are winding up their affairs, and transferring their capital to other states, who are giving it a hearty welcome, and profiting by its presence. And unless our system of legislation shall be improved, thousands and thousands of our people will have to follow the example—gather up what they may, and betake themselves to some place where the business of legislation consists in something else than imposing taxes.—TAXES—TAXES, like a hideous incubus, upon the industry & enterprise of the people.

The Journal calls upon the legislature now in session to take some action upon the tax law, to avert the mischief which it is doing in the business portions of the state.

The address delivered by Rev. A. W. Jewett before the Odd Fellows, and others, on Thursday evening last, was one of the best written discourses that we have enjoyed for a long time. The hall is rather small, and the attendance, though respectable, was not such as should have greeted a discourse the preparation of which required as much labor and thought as this one did. Mr. J. is a graceful, fluent and nervous speaker, and writes with an earnestness, terseness and vigor worthy of attention and respect in any community.

A few evenings since, the Cincinnati police made a grand haul of gamblers at a gambling house on 5th street, between Main and Sycamore, where 23 were arrested. Several jumped out at the windows, and the room being in the 2d story of the building, it is supposed they received some salutary bumps and bruises in their descent to the earth. The police also took possession of all the gambling apparatus, which consisted of a mahogany box, called a game keeper, for a faro bank; a box for the keeping of checks for a faro bank; cloth for rondo table; card case for a faro bank; about one hundred large cards for keno; rondo balls; sweat cloth; keno box, &c. &c.

Five of the prisoners plead guilty at the examining court, and were fined \$50, to be committed till paid. Most of the others were discharged. The gambling apparatus was burned by order of the court. Its value was said to be \$1000.

Gov. Medill has appointed F. M. Ellis, of the Lancaster Eagle, his private secretary, in place of George T. Barnum, who was compelled to relinquish the office on account of ill health.

David A. Starkweather of Canton, it is reported, has the mission to Chili.

Over a million of dollars worth of breadstuffs are weekly exported from New York.

THE UNION OF THE BRITISH PROVINCES.—It is positively asserted that the union of all the British Provinces of North America will soon take place; and each province will have her own local legislature. Although it was rumored some time since that a change of such kind was intended, it is but a few days ago that it was positively said that it will take place. A correspondent from Quebec writes the following:

It is generally believed here that Lord Elgin and Mr. Lafontaine have gone to England for that object. I merely report these facts without commenting as to the probable result of such a government. I regard this step as made in the right line, for union is strength, and it is easy to perceive that it is but another endeavor towards self government. The friends of the confederation say that the provinces, containing three millions of inhabitants, will be able to establish a government almost independent from England, and they look at it as the aurora of a better state of things.—[Halifax Nova Scotian.]

STEAMBOAT BURNT—GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.—NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 29.—The steamer Georgia, from Montgomery, Alabama, caught fire on Saturday night and was totally destroyed, with most of her cargo, consisting of upwards of 1,000 bales of cotton. She had nearly two hundred passengers on board, principally emigrants going to Texas, and slaves. Thirty were drowned, and many others missing. Loss of property over \$8,000.

SECOND DISPATCH.—It is estimated that fifty were drowned or burned on the Georgia. All the baggage and money were lost. The boat was valued at \$28,000.

ERIE.—Passengers who came through yesterday report that there was a break of some eighty rods at Erie, and that the probability is that to-day or to-morrow the cars will come up together on opposite sides of a platform.

The engines that have been so long delayed there belonging to western roads, have come on. Gov. Bigler was there, and a cavalcade of 1000 horsemen, with red leggings and red belts, had turned out to receive him. In behalf of the state he was about taking possession of the road of the Franklin Canal Co., whose charter was repealed by the legislature. [Toledo Blade of Friday.]

Capt. Trowell informs us that when he passed there a few days ago, the gap was closed up, but the track across one street was torn up, to prevent cars passing. Gov. Bigler's movements were understood to be a mere ruse to quiet the Erie ragamuffins.

RAIL RIPPERS AGAIN AT WORK.—We are indebted to the House line for the following despatch:

ERIE, Jan. 31.—The first train from Buffalo is just in. No obstruction at Harbor Creek. The city authorities tore up the track crossing Sassafras street a few rods west of the Depot, so no connection can be made with the western road. Large crowd of people, but no violence.

Of course the case for Executive interference is now made out. That is, if any reliance can be had upon the Administration. —[Cleve. Herald.]

The democratic caucus at Columbus has adjourned *sine die*, without making a nomination for senator. Manypenny and Allen were ahead of all other candidates, but a large portion of the votes were scattered on other candidates. The supposition was that a new man would at last have to be taken up and nominated.

Redfield, the New York collector in place of Bronson, removed, has been confirmed by the senate by a vote of 37 to 9. The whigs, free soilers and softs generally voted for the confirmation, and a few ultra pro-slavery hards against it. So that agony is over.

Nathaniel C. Read, formerly a prominent locofoco politician of Ohio, and judge of the supreme court, died at San Francisco, California, Dec. 28th, after a brief illness. He formed a business connexion with Mr. Weller, at Washington, during the last winter, and in the following spring went out in quest of fortune, but his singular career was brought to an early termination.

Correspondence of the Baltimore Patriot.—WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1844.—Some years ago Mr. Colmesnil, of Louisville, Kentucky, who had been a mail contractor for carrying the mail between Louisville and New Orleans, brought a claim against the Government for damages to the amount of \$60,000. Several curious facts are reported and circulated in regard to this claim. I will give them as they have been given to me.

Mr. Peter G. Washington, was the Sixth Auditor of the Treasury—the Auditor for the Post Office Department. One of his principal clerks, Mr. Kennedy, a very clear headed and upright public officer, was requested to examine all the papers and vouchers relative to the Colmesnil claim, and to report thereon. He reported against the claim. Mr. Washington, the Auditor, adopted and approved of the report. But Mr. Colmesnil and his attorney, Mr. James Guthrie, now Secretary of the Treasury, were not satisfied with this rejection of their claim. They pressed it again, and again Mr. Kennedy reported against it, and Mr. Auditor Washington approved of the report.

After this, Messrs. Colmesnil and Guthrie appealed to Congress to pass an act by which their claim could be settled and paid. Mr. Peter G. Washington, having been superseded in office, was engaged as sub-agent and counsel for the claim. Congress was beset immensely and intensely in the matter. That body which could not withstand every thing, passed a bill in favor of the settlement of the claim, whereupon the papers and vouchers in the case were re-examined, and \$20,000 were allowed and paid on the claim.

Thus stood matters, when Mr. Guthrie was appointed Secretary of the Treasury.—Mr. Colmesnil came on to Washington also. Mr. Peter G. Washington was forthwith made Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Colmesnil Chief Clerk of the Bureau of the Treasurer of the United States.

It is rumored—but I cannot vouch for the rumor—that Mr. Washington entreated Mr. Kennedy, the faithful, in the Sixth Auditor's Office, to review his former reports against the Colmesnil claim, and draw up a new report in its favor, and that Mr. Kennedy firmly refused to do so, because he could not honestly. At all events, whether he was so requested to act, and so replied, or not, he was removed from office, and Mr. Phillips, selected by Messrs. Washington and Guthrie to be the Sixth Auditor, has sent for the Colmesnil papers. It is surmised that he has been induced to send for them with a view to re-open the case, and allow and pay the remainder of the amount claimed by Messrs. Colmesnil and Guthrie, namely, \$60,000. May be so: may be not so.

POTOMAC.

AH HA!—The N. Y. Tribune has this prick: "Professor Rainey, who was last week nominated and confirmed as consul to Bolivia, it is said, is to be stripped of his new official habiliments, because the President has just discovered that he published a Scott campaign paper in Cincinnati."

We hope the President won't act precipitately. Give the Professor a fair chance to send in the papers—the campaign papers.

We understand that Hon. Lucius V. Bierce, of Akron, is designing to write a history of the Western Reserve. We know no gentleman more competent, by his education, personal observation and experience, to discharge that important task. An authentic and well written history of northern Ohio, (such as Mr. B. would write,) will meet with a favorable reception.

FOREIGN NEWS.—The arrival of the Asia brings us important foreign news. The fighting on the Danube continues with decided success to the Turks. We regard the news as more favorable for peace in the spring, as negotiations appear to be agreed upon, anew.

Flour has slightly declined in New York, and has fallen 50 cents per barrel in Cincinnati. As the prospect of peace advances, flour will recede.

Naomi, the daughter of Enoch, was 580 years old when she was married. Courage, ladies!